and daughters of persons who are domiciled in Uttar Pradesh, but have passed the qualifying examinations from an Institution located outside Uttar Pradesh. According to the State Government, this policy of admission is applicable to all the Engineering Institutions in the State and there has been no change in the aforesaid policy.

Youth hostels in Madhya Pradesh

2966. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be plaesed to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question 1922 on 12th August, 1987 in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) what is the progress made so far regarding the transfer of land for the youth hostels at Khajuraho, Indore, Sidhi and Pachhmarhi in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what funds, if any, have been released so far for the aforesaid youth hostels; and

(c) what are the other places which have been identified by Government for the construction of the youth hostels in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Government have identified Khajuraho, Indore, Pachhmarhi and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh as suitable places for the construction of Youth Hostels. Proposals for the construction of Youth Hostels at Gwalior and Ujjain have also been received from Madhya Pradesh. But there is no proposal for construction of Youth Hostel at Sidhi.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh have not yet transferred the subject of Youth Hostels to the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the State. As already mentioned in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1992 answered on 12-8-87, release of funds for the construction of Youth Hostels in Madhya Pradesh could be considered only after the transfer of the subject to the State Department of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Uniform law for safeguarding interests of women

2967. SHRIMATI AMRITA PRITAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that there still exist temples in the country where women are not even permitted to enter; if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop this degradation at the root level in light of the International Women's Day and also for one uniform law in the country to safeguard the interests of the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): No specific or authentic report of women being barred from entry into temples of worship or of religious reverence has been received from any State Government or Union Territory Administration or any Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of women. In view of this the question of the Central Government taking any steps to stop this degradation does not arise.

Anti-leprosy Plan

2968. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 18th January, 1988 under the caption "Vacant post hit anti leprosy Plan";

(b) if so, how far the anti leprosy programme has been hit on account of the post allegedly lying vacant; and the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the aggregate level the programme has been running very satisfactorily in achieving the targets set for Case detection, Case treatment and the cure of the patients.

Out of 22981 posts of both medical and paramedical staff sanctioned by States/UTs under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, 18572 (80.8 per cent) are filled.

Detailed break-up sanctioned staff, number of posts filled State-wise is placed at Statement—I. (*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 105).

(c) The States/U.Ts are being constantly pursued to fill up the remaining posts even by lifting the ban wherever imposed. In order to make trained manpower available for filling these posts, the training facilities at 45 Training Centres have been augmented.

Restructure of Lucknow based Research, Design and Standards Organisations

2969. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have drawn up a sum of Rs. 280 crores scheme for restructuring the Lucknow Based Research, Design and Standards Organisations to ensure that to absorb frontier technology in Rail transportation and develop them for application to the Railway safety of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the names of the main lines which are likely to be covered under the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) With a view to upgrading railway technology in order to bring the same at par with that obtaining in developed countries, a Technology Development Plan has been prepared by Railways' Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (R.D.S.O.). This Plan has identified specific Missions and Key Development Areas where technological improvements are to be made. It also envisages quality improvements in R.D.S.O. and better involvement of R.D.S.O. with industry and centres of learning.

(c) The Plan provides for upgradation of technology in general and is not confined to any particular line.

Declaration of State Roads as National Highway in Andhra Pradesh

2970. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent proposal to the Central Government for taking over State Roads as National Highway:

(b) if so, the names of these roads which have been taken by the Central Government as National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) the number of roads that are likely to be declared as National Highways during 1988-89; and

(d) whether the Narkatpalli-Nalgonda Road highway has been included in the National Highway and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have projected the requirement for the declaration of certain State Roads as National Highways. However, no road was included in the National Highways system in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years. Owing to limitation of resources under the Central Sector Roads programme and other priority considerations, it is not possible now to declare new National Highways, including Narkatpalli-Nalgonda Road.